

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-based citation search method comprising:
- receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition and including a name of an entity;
- automatically using at least one additional name for searching, wherein said additional name is obtained from an entity names table, and wherein said table identifies said additional name as representative of said same entity;
- receiving a list of one or more patent databases;
- searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and
- producing a citation list in an electronically accessible medium, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently Amended) The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, further comprising:
- ~~translating information used for producing said citation list of said reference patent~~ said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition and including a name of an entity from a first content language to a second content language.

22. (Original) The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, further comprising:
generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

23. – 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein the citation list identifies at least two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the at least two patents specifies a different name of assignee.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-based citation search method of claim 25, further comprising:

referring to an said entity names table to identify said at least two patents that specify different names of assignee as being commonly owned by said single entity; ~~said table containing at least one additional name of said entity.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said first tier reference patent cites patents satisfying said condition of said search query, further comprising:

searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one second tier reference patent that cites said first tier reference patent; and

producing a second tier citation list in an electronically accessible medium, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said second tier reference patent.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-based citation search method of claim 19, wherein said first tier reference patent is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query, further comprising:

searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one second tier reference patent that is cited by said first tier reference patent; and

producing a second tier citation list in an electronically accessible medium, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said second tier reference patent.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-based citation search method comprising:

receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;

receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;

automatically using at least one additional name for searching, wherein said additional name is obtained from an entity names table, and wherein said table identifies said additional name as representative of said same at least one entity;

receiving a list of one or more patent databases;

searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity or said at least one additional name representative of said same entity identified in said watch list;

searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents; and

generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for citation search comprising:

means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;

means for identifying at least one entity;

means for automatically using at least one additional name for searching that is obtained from an entity names table wherein said table identifies said additional name as representative of said same at least one entity;

means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases;

means for searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and

means for producing a citation list in an electronically accessible medium, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising:

means for generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the citation list identifies two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two patents specifies a different name of assignee, and wherein said common ownership by said single entity is determined by reference to said entity names table.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for citation search comprising:
means for receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;

means for receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;

means for automatically identifying at least one additional name for searching that is obtained from an entity names table wherein said table identifies said additional name as being representative of said same at least one entity;

means for receiving a list of one or more patent databases;

means for searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list or said at least one additional name from said table;

means for searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents; and

means for generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search, comprising the steps of:

receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;

identifying at least one entity;

automatically using at least one additional name for searching that is obtained from an entity names table wherein said table identifies said additional name as representative of said same at least one entity;

receiving a list of one or more patent databases;

searching said list of patent databases to collect at least one first tier reference patent that cites or is cited by patents satisfying said condition of said search query; and

producing a citation list in an electronically accessible medium, said citation list identifying at least an owner of said first tier reference patent.

36. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 35, the method further comprising:

generating a notice to a predetermined person when said owner of said first tier reference patent matches a predetermined entity.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the citation list identifies two patents as being commonly owned by a single entity, wherein each of the two patents specifies a different name of assignee, and wherein said common ownership by said single entity is determined by reference to said entity names table.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium with computer program code, wherein, when the computer program code is executed by a processor, the processor performs a method of citation search, comprising the steps of:

receiving a search query, said search query comprising at least one patent identification condition;

receiving a watch list, said watch list identifying at least one entity;

automatically using at least one additional name for searching that is obtained from an entity names table wherein said table identifies said additional name as representative of said same at least one entity;

receiving a list of one or more patent databases;

searching said list of patent databases to collect target patents satisfying said condition set forth in said search query and whose owners match at least one said entity identified in said watch list or said at least one additional name from said table;

searching said list of patent databases to collect reference patents that are cited by target patents; and

generating a notice to a predetermined person when an owner of said reference patent matches a predetermined entity.